

Renton City Center Community Plan: Framework Draft

The Heart of the Center of Opportunity

Committee of the Whole

April 19, 2010





City Center Plan Draft

Process

- **Began collecting input - Summer 2009**
 - Picnics, business community
- **Presented findings & invited feedback - Fall 2009**
 - Open houses, Committee of the Whole
- **Refined and worked with IDT**
- **Draft is presented to Council**

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Framework

- **Vision: The Heart of the Center of Opportunity**
- **Eight overarching goals that reflect aspects of:**
 - **Economic and community development**
 - **Transportation**
 - **Parks and green space**

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Eight Goals

- 1. Improve the visibility and perception of the City Center, and create a distinct identity.**
- 2. Continue to support Renton's diverse economic sectors.**
- 3. Improve the concentration of civic activities including Liberty Park, the library building, Renton History Museum, and Cedar River to create a dynamic civic node.**

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Eight Goals (cont.)

- 4. Protect and enhance the existing residential neighborhoods.**
- 5. Provide better regional transportation connections to improve access.**
- 6. Provide better connections – especially between Coulon Park/Lake Washington, The Landing, North Renton Neighborhood, Downtown, and South Renton Neighborhood.**

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Eight Goals (cont.)

- 7. Provide connections to regional trails and build on these key connections as an economic development strategy.**
- 8. Protect and enhance the natural features and open space and improve public access to and connections between Lake Washington shoreline, the Cedar River, and the variety of parks and open spaces.**

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Some Simple “To Dos”

- **Improve pedestrian-scaled lighting along streets and trails.**
- **Establish measures (such as setbacks, buffers, landscape screening, and height restrictions) to protect edges of single-family areas from adjacent development.**
- **Sign and enforce truck routes to keep trucks off residential streets.**

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Some “Can Dos”

- Identify a preferred route for a future bus rapid transit and/or light rail line that would best serve the City Center.
- Support opportunities to create a more vibrant Downtown where people live, work, learn, and play.
 - Holiday Tree Lighting, Farmers Market
- Preserve and maintain the BNSF corridor for future transit and multiuse trail.

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Some “Wouldn’t it be cool if we did”

- Preserve single-family character of South Renton through a downzone.
- Create a greenway/promenade north of the Cedar River.
- Establish Park Avenue N as a pedestrian-focused multi-modal transportation corridor between Coulon Park and Burnett Ave S.

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Conceptual – for
illustrative purposes only

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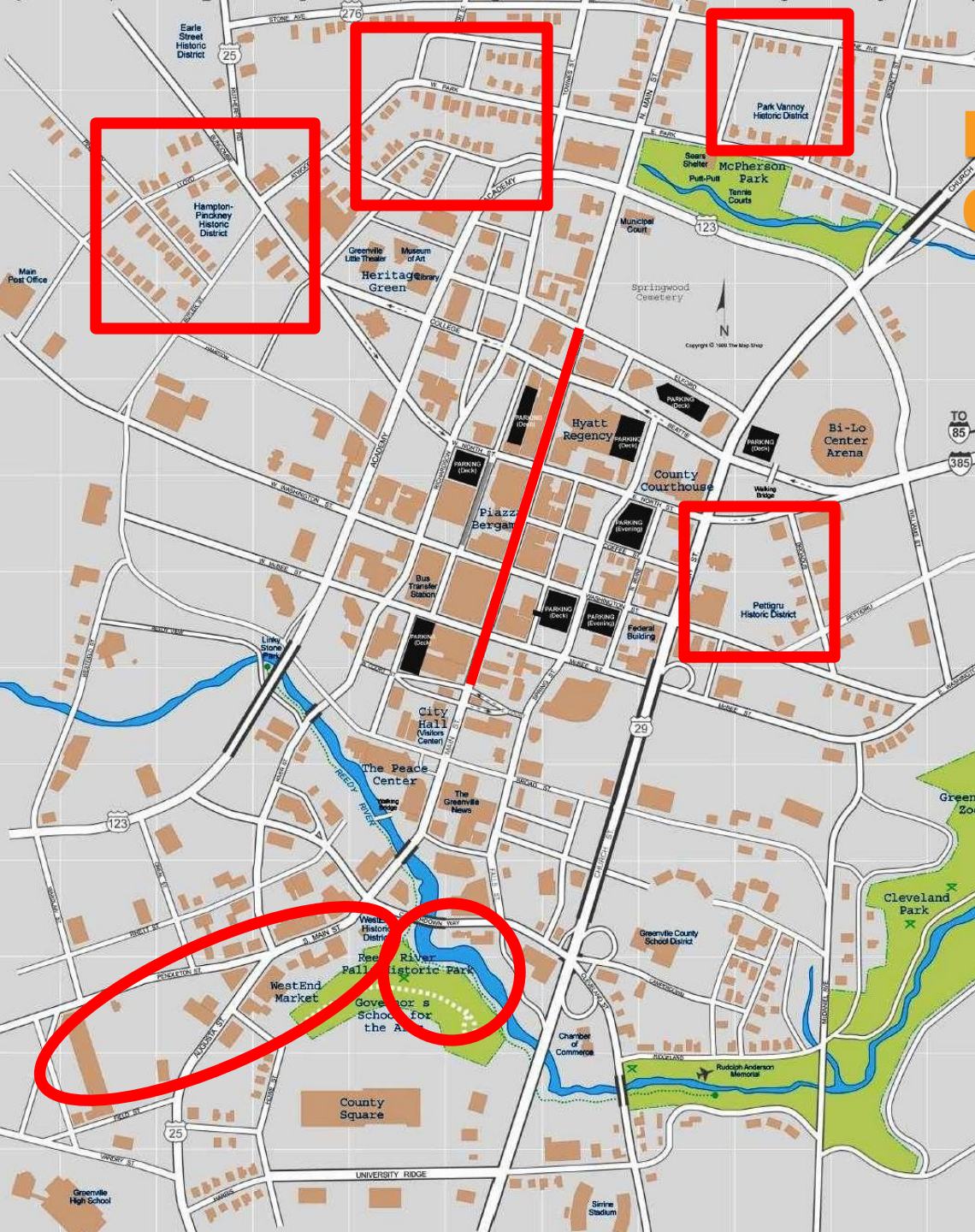


Conceptual – for illustrative purposes only

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Conceptual – for illustrative purposes only



Examples From Other Communities

Greenville, South Carolina

- 60,000 total pop.
- 1.75 sq mi downtown area
- Example of revitalization, preservation, and new opportunities





- Began revitalization efforts in 1978 with improvements to Main Street





- 2009 named an APA Great Street



Reedy River Falls ©Wilkinson2002

- **2002: removed 4-lane bridge over Reedy River in downtown**



Greenvillesouth.com

from con



Reedy River Falls ©Wilkinson2002

- **2004: opened pedestrian-only Liberty Bridge**



- Expanded a park to connect with the river





Greenvilleinformation.com



Skyscraperpage.com

- New development in the area has been encouraged



Riverplace.com



Pegs.com



- **Single-family housing stock close to Main Street and Downtown has been preserved**



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Other Examples





- Sidewalk cafes help create vibrant urban environment





- Galveston, TX (pop. 57,000)

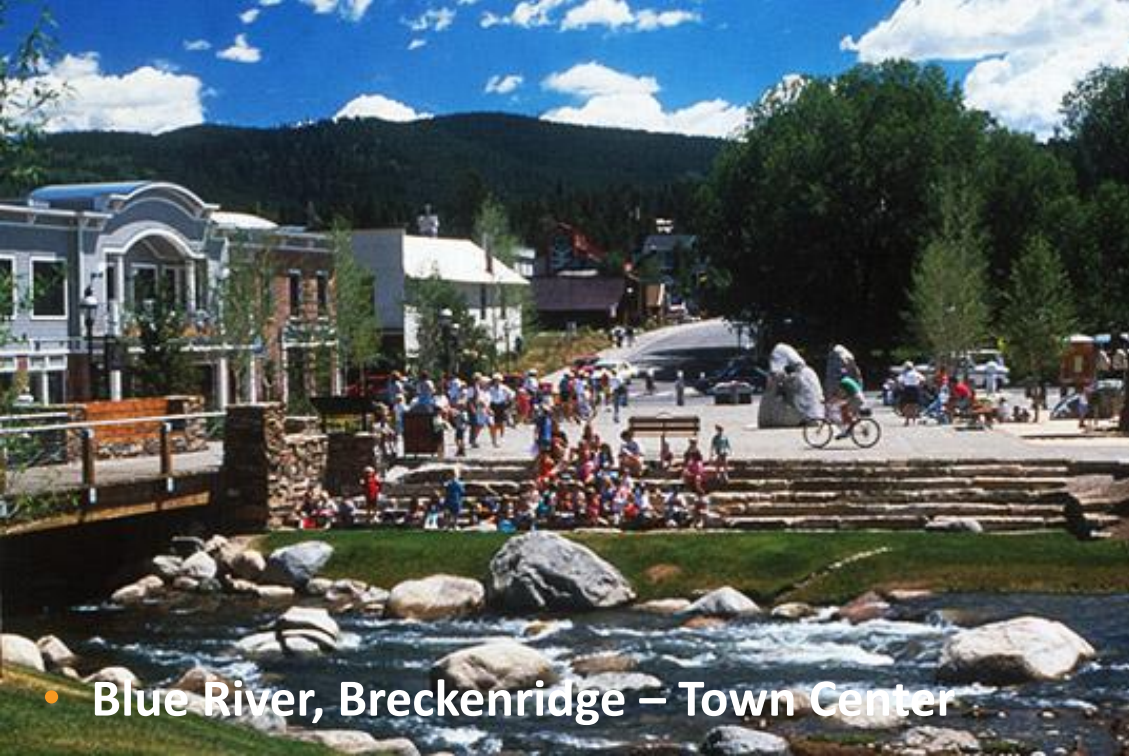
- Trolleys help connect areas and stimulate economic development



- Kenosha, WI (pop. 97,000)

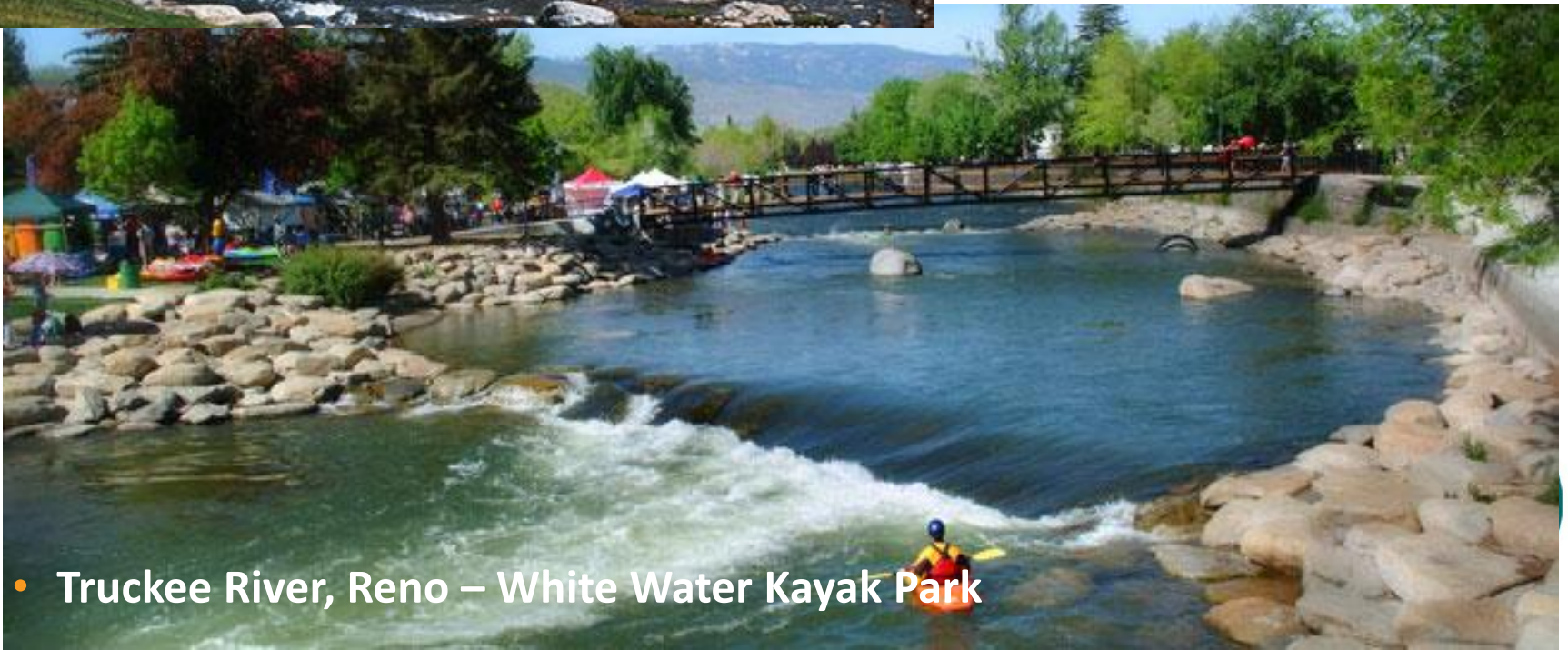


- Greenville, SC (pop. 60,000)



- Blue River, Breckenridge – Town Center

- Improvements to riverfronts help to enrich quality of life and adds community vitality.



- Truckee River, Reno – White Water Kayak Park

- Public art helps to foster a sense of place and a unique identity.



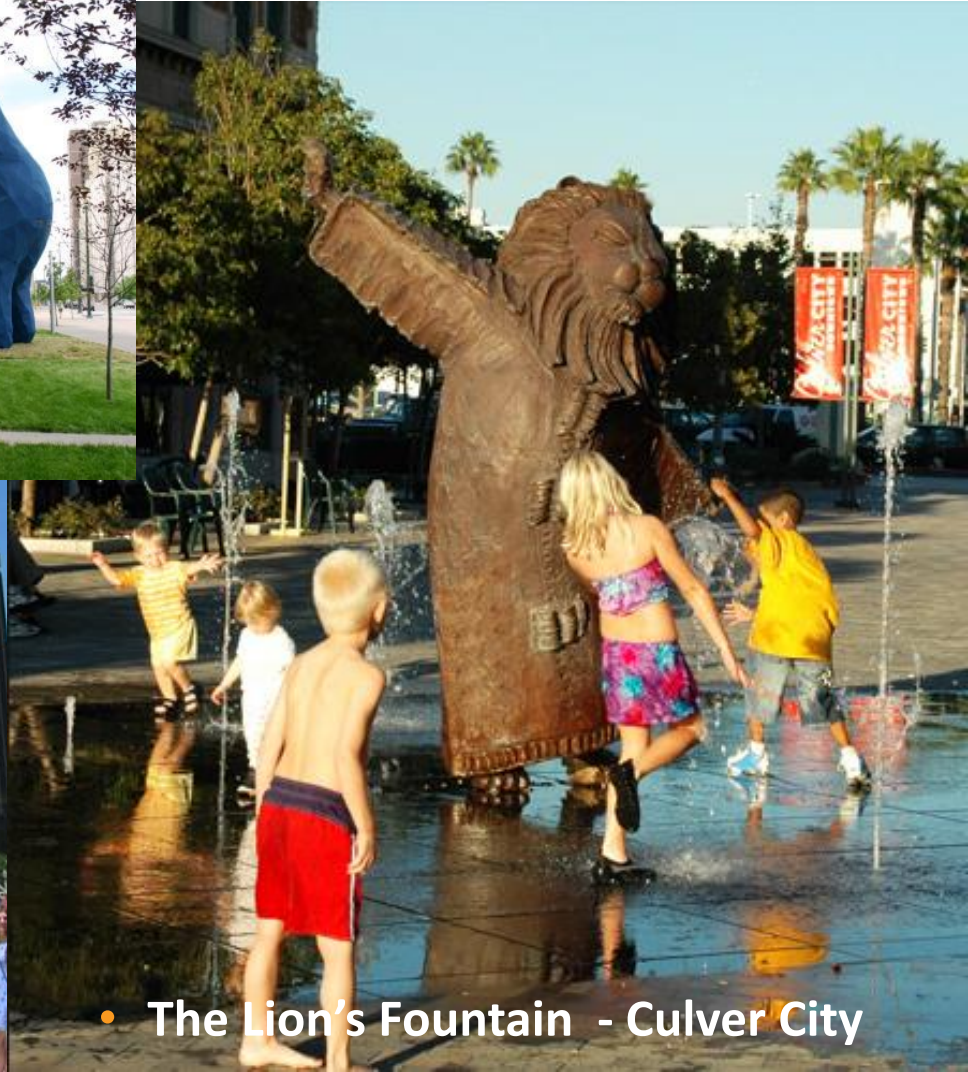
• Bridge of Glass - Tacoma



• Denver



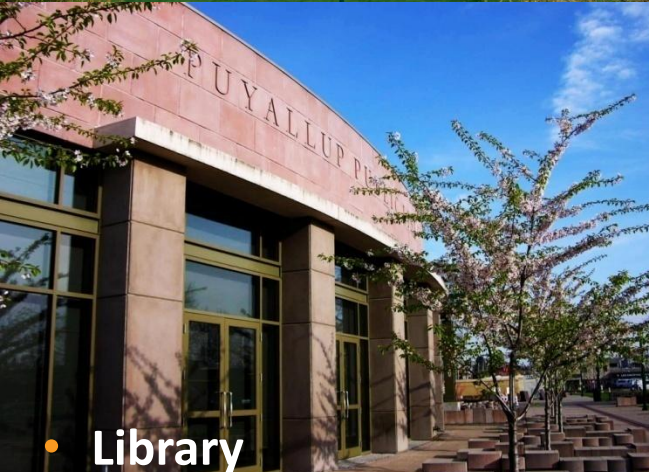
• Millennium Park - Chicago



• The Lion's Fountain - Culver City



• Library and Activity Center



• Library



• Pioneer Park Pavilion

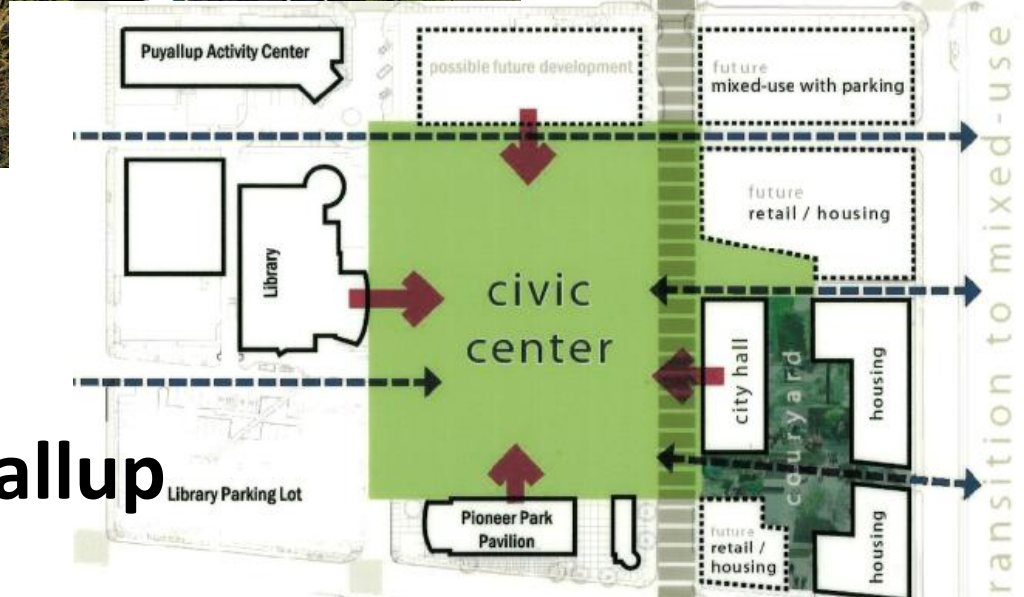


Summer Concerts



• City Hall

• Puyallup



- Geographically targeted public investments in civic uses helps to catalyze private investment

Next Steps

- **Council feedback**
- **Release draft for public comment**
 - Available on website, survey
 - Direct mail to residents and businesses
 - Email to participants
- **Reconvene IDT**
- **Present to Council for possible endorsement**
- **After Framework Plan is finalized, work on Implementation Plan begins**
- **Once Implementation Plan is complete, brought as a whole to Council for consideration**